

**ELECTION OBSERVER PLAN  
COUNTY OF FRESNO  
November 2, 2010  
STATEWIDE GENERAL ELECTION**

**I. County and System Information**

County: Fresno  
Contact: Victor E. Salazar, County Clerk/Registrar of Voters,  
(559) 488-3343  
Voting System: Premier/ES&S AccuVote Optical Scan for vote by  
mail and precinct ballots.  
Premier/ES&S AccuVote TSx for voters with specific  
needs

**II. Purpose of the Election Observer Panel**

The purpose of an Election Observer Panel is to:

1. Provide an avenue for public observation of and input into the election process.
2. Assist in ensuring the integrity of the election process.
3. Encourage participation and build voter confidence in the election process.

**III. Who to invite to serve on the Election Observer Panel**

Between E-30 and E-15, invite members of the community to serve on the Election Observer Panel which can include:

- √ County Grand Jury Members
- √ Political Party Central Committee Members
- √ League of Women Voters
- √ Media
- √ Citizen Volunteers

**IV. Appointment Letters and Schedule of Events**

After groups have provided the names of those interested in serving on the panel, a letter is prepared and mailed to each of the panelists. This letter informs them that they have been invited to serve as panelists and invites them to attend three separate opportunities to observe the election process. These opportunities include: 1. an orientation/tour to our local certified vendor that prepares the vote by mail ballots for mailing and also prints the ballots for Fresno County; 2. a meeting/tour to observe the signature verification process for vote by mail ballots in our elections office and a mock election; 3. Election Day schedule. At the orientation meeting panel members are invited to either observe the process on Election Night at the central elections office or visit a polling place.

All observers are given a packet of information including information on what is on the ballot, a sample of the ballot, voter registration statistics and observer rules.

**V. Mechanism for Feedback**

The County Clerk meets with the panel and gives them an opportunity to express their concerns and ask questions.

**SAMPLE LETTER OF INVITATION:**

On November 2, 2010, California will conduct its Statewide General Election. As with all elections, our office is recruiting citizens to participate in our Election Observer Panel. The purpose of the Observer Panel is to insure that all critical procedures of the vote tallying process are carried out in full view of the public.

Therefore, we're asking for your participation on this citizen oversight committee. The panel consists of local citizens and will specifically function to oversee the November 2, 2010, Statewide General Election.

Participation requires attendance on three occasions as follows:

Panel Orientation at The Presort Center located at 1931 G Street.

Mock Election at the Elections Department located at 2221 Kern Street.

November 2, 2010, from 7:00 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. – Statewide Direct Primary Election at the Elections Department, 2221 Kern Street.

We look forward to seeing you as indicated above. However, if you have any questions, please contact Sheila Benavidez at 488-3343.

Sincerely,

Victor E. Salazar  
Fresno County Clerk/Registrar of Voters

**OBSERVER RULES:  
ELECTION OBSERVER INSTRUCTIONS  
FRESNO COUNTY CLERK/REGISTRAR OF VOTERS**

1. All observers must report and sign in daily at the facility where they are observing.
2. It is the right of observers to be able to view processes at a proximity that allows them to ensure that staff are following proper procedures. However, please be sensitive to the individual's personal space. Observers must be professional and courteous in their conduct.
3. Because of safety issues and safety requirements, observers in the warehouse facility at 4525 E. Hamilton must wear closed toed shoes while in the warehouse.
4. An Observer Badge will be issued and must be worn at all times. When leaving for the day, please return the badge to the check-in desk.
5. No eating or drinking is allowed in the election areas.
6. Radios, cameras and tape recorders are not allowed. Cell phones must be set to vibrate or off mode while observing the elections. No telephone conversations shall take place in any election workspace.
7. One spokesperson per group should be the primary point of contact.
8. The individual's function is to observe that procedures are followed. Observers cannot assist in operations, touch or handle any ballots or other election-related materials.
9. All questions concerning a procedure should be directed to the supervisor in charge and not directly to employees.
10. No more than two (2) observers are allowed to stand over an employee. Observers should avoid physical contact with employees.
11. Observers are to hold discussions and conversations outside the designated work areas.
12. Observers will be allowed into the work areas only when employees are performing election operations.
13. Operations will continue as scheduled whether or not an observer is present.
14. Failure to follow instructions should be reported. Violation of security by an observer may cause expulsion from the building or relocation by a Sheriff Deputy or County Security.
15. Interviews will take place in the office lobby or outside of the building so that it is not disruptive to the office process.
16. Only credentialed media are allowed to take pictures or record (audio or video) activities within the office. (Per CCROV 04352 from the Secretary of State)
17. County telephones may not be used by non-county personnel.
18. Some people have sensitivities to perfumes and colognes. Please refrain from wearing strong perfume or aftershave while observing.